

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-21 are pending in this application. Claims 4 and 15 were cancelled by previous amendments. None of the claims are amended at present time.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Foladare et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,905,777, hereinafter “Foladare”).

In response to the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Foladare, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 requires:

An information processor configured to receive a service request message ... wherein said service request is ***a request to initiate a conference connection***, and the information processor is configured to communicate with at least one of the plurality of sub-networks ***to automatically establish the requested conference connection***.

(Claim 1, portions omitted, emphasis added.) The pending Office Action asserts that Foladare teaches this feature in multiple passages. (June 29, 2007 Office Action, p. 3, ll. 2-4.) Applicants respectfully disagree with such assertion since and believes that the Office Action is interpreting the teachings of Foladare improperly broad, as next discussed.

Foladare describes a communication system including an E-mail server and an E-mail network, in which useful E-Mail messages can be identified, separated from junk mail, and forwarded as directed by the recipient. (Foladare, Abstract.) Specifically, Foladare ***allows a user to create database setting*** indicating whether a received e-mail is important enough for a user to receive an immediate notification of receipt. Once the user receives an indication that an e-mail is received, which fits into a predetermined category of importance, the user can send a signal back to the system requesting that the e-mail be forwarded to a selected destination. (Foladare, col. 5, ll. 15-38.)

Foladare explains that an E-mail message with a title “Meeting Notice” is prepared at the personal computer 76 or the mainframe computer 78 that is send by a sender to a recipient. (Foladare, col. 3, ll. 46-49, Fig. 1.) Foladare further details that the E-mail is subsequently buffered on reception, and the server 60 “*waits for the recipient to select a forwarding destination* for the message.” (Foladare, col. 3, ll. 60-62, emphasis added.) With respect to Foladare’s teachings in column 5, Foladare explains how the recipient of the above described E-mail may select where the server 60 should forward the received E-mail, and that the recipient may receive alert signals after such E-mail arrives. (Foladare, col. 5, ll. 25-34, ll. 27-30.) In addition, Foladare explains that the E-mail might also be forwarded to a default address that is stored in the recipient’s record 255. (Foladare, col. 6, ll. 35-39, Fig. 4.)

In other words, Foladare explains that E-mails may be sent from a first user to a second user that can include a title “Meeting Notice,” and after reception by the second user, there can be an automatic alert signal, or an automatic forward of the received E-mail. However, Applicants’ Claim 1 clearly requires not only that a service request is *a request to initiate a conference connection*, but also that the information processor is configured to communicate with at least one of the plurality of sub-networks *to automatically establish the requested conference connection*. Even if we assume *in arguendo* that Foladare’s E-mail with the title “Meeting Notice” is a request to initiate a conference connection, there is clearly no information processor in Foladare that is configured to communicate with at least one of the plurality of sub-networks *to automatically establish the requested conference connection*. Foladare’s server 60 is merely used to selectively forward E-mails and sending alerts, based on information from a record 255. (Foladare, col. 5, ll. 15-38; See also Fig. 3, steps 410, 412, 414, an 450; Fig. 3a, steps 420, 422, and 450.) The server 60 of Foladare clearly has no such configuration to establish conferences. Applicants therefore respectfully

request the Examiner to point out where such feature is taught in Foladare, or to indicate allowable subject matter.

In light of the above passages in Foladare that were used by the pending Office Action to reject Applicants' Claim 1 features related to the request to initiate a conference connection, Applicants submit that Foladare clearly fails to teach every feature recited in Applicants' Claim 1, so that Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-14, 17-19, and 21 are believed to be patentably distinct over Foladare. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of, the rejection based on Foladare.¹

Method Claim 11 recites "the information processor is configured to communicate with the sub-network to automatically establish the requested conference connection." As discussed above, at least this feature is not taught by the cited passages of Foladare. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claim 11, and all associated dependent claims, is also believed to be overcome in view of the arguments regarding independent Claim 1

Should the Examiner continue to disagree with the above distinctions, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an explanation via Advisory Action pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 714.13 specifically rebutting the points raised herein for purposes of facilitating the appeal process.

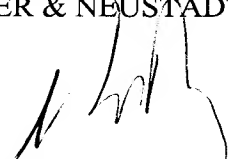
Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance.

¹ See MPEP 2131: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," (Citations omitted) (emphasis added). See also MPEP 2143.03: "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."

A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-21 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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